

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097482
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /019 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:HA/ORM:HBCUSHING

APPROVED BY:HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN

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R 150722Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097482

FOLLOWING REPEAT VIENTIANE 430 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK
HONG KONG, UDORN, AND CINCPAC DATED APRIL 10, 1978.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 430

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK ALSO PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM SREF PORG LA

SUBJ: HMONG MOVE THROUGH VIENTIANE UNDER MILITARY GUARD

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 HOURS LOCAL TIME APRIL 6, AN
EMBASSY OFFICER SAW A LARGE NUMBER OF HMONG BEING TRANS-
PORTED THROUGH VIENTIANE IN FOUR LARGE OPEN BED TRUCKS.
THE HMONG WERE UNDER THE GUARD OF ARMED LPLA SOLDIERS
WHO RODE WITH THE HMONG, APPROXIMATELY FOUR TO FIVE
GUARDS PER TRUCK.

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PAGE 02 STATE 097482

2. SEPARATE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE HMONG, ESTIMATED
AS NUMBERING SEVERAL HUNDRED, HAD BEEN HELD UNDER GUARD
AT VIENTIANE'S THAT LUANG GROUNDS OVER THE NIGHT OF
APRIL 5. THEY REPORTEDLY HAD
BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM THE
PAKSANE AREA WHERE THEY HAD BEEN CAPTURED WHILE TRYING
TO ESCAPE THAILAND.

3. VILLAGERS WHO WERE ABLE TO TALK TO SOME OF THE HMONG REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE HMONG CLAIMED TO HAVE COME FROM THE PHU BIA REGION NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE, SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING IN RECENT MONTHS BETWEEN HMONG HOLDOUTS AND COMBINED LAO AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS. THE HMONG REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THEY WERE NOT FOLLOWERS OF FAYDANG (FAYDANG LOBLIAYAO, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION) BUT OF VANG PAO. ONE LAO WHO SAW THEM SAID THAT THE GROUP COMPRISED MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN AND THAT ALL WERE THIN AND APPEARED TIRED.

4. A UNHCR OFFICIAL TOLD US APRIL 7 THAT THE FOUR TRUCKS USED TO TRANSPORT THE HMONG OUT OF VIENTIANE WERE UNHCR VEHICLES.

5. COMMENT: AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT KNOW WHERE THE HMONG WERE TAKEN OR WHAT WAS THEIR FATE. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNHCR WAS NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION, THOUGH THE ORGANIZATION'S VEHICLES WERE APPARENTLY USED BY THE GOVERNMENT. ROBERTS UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE097482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HA/ORM:HBCUSHING
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-1035
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780452/aaaabrzt.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 930e28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2954891
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HMONG MOVE THROUGH VIENTIANE UNDER MILITARY GUARD
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PORC, LA
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/930e28ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014